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EAST SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL.



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
County Medical Officer

1943

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
COUNTY HALL,
IPSWICH



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PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,

COUNTY HALL,

IPSWICH.

June, 1944.

To the Chairman and Members of the County Council.

MY LORDS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report for 1943, abridged in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health; the report follows the lines of those of former years.

It is with great regret that I record the loss which the County sustained in December, 1943, by the death of Dr. B. Wood-White, who had held office as County Medical Officer of Health for a little over twenty years.

I have the honour to be

Your obedient Servant,

A. G. ATKINSON,

A/County Medical Officer.



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I.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area : 548,607 acres.—1st April, 1934.

Population 1943 : 172,760.

(As estimated by the Registrar-General).

Population, Census 1931 : 207,475.

Number of inhabited houses, Census 1931 : 52,513.

Number of families or separate occupiers, Census 1931 : 53,933.

Rateable Value : £1,018,810 (year beginning 1st April, 1943).

Sum represented by a penny rate : £3,660 (estimated). Year beginning 1st April, 1943.

Natural and Social Conditions of the Area.

Geology, Industry, Commerce. These subjects are dealt with in the Survey Report for 1930 and there has been no alteration requiring comment ; those desiring information are referred to that Report.

1943

Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Year.

<i>Live Births :</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>Total.</i>	
Legitimate	1,453	1,325	2,778	} Birth rate per 1,000 of estimated population :— 17.65.
Illegitimate	152	123	275	
Total live births	1,605	1,448	3,053	
<i>Stillbirths :</i>				} Rate per 1,000 total births (live and stillbirths) :—28.02.
Legitimate	37	39	76	
Illegitimate	9	3	12	
Total stillbirths	46	42	88	
<i>Deaths :</i>	1,163	1,166	2,329	} Crude death rate per 1,000 of estimated population :—13.48.

<i>Deaths from Puerperal Causes :</i>	<i>No. of Deaths.</i>	<i>Rate per 1,000 total births.</i>
Puerperal Sepsis	2	.64
Other Puerperal Causes	4	1.27
Total	6	1.91

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :

All Infants per 1,000 live births	35.0
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	32.7
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	51.8
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	7
„ Whooping Cough (all ages)	5
„ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	5
„ Cancer (all ages)	370
Cancer Death Rate per 1,000 population	2.14
Tuberculosis Death Rate per 1,000 population	.39

N.B.—Stillbirths. The rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births given in the report for 1942 should have been 25.04 and not 17.54.

Population.

Year.	Population.
1931	207,475
1940	199,500
1941	179,400
1942	172,980
1943	172,760

The rapid decrease in the civilian population of the County has been checked, the fall this year being 220 only.

TABLE I.

BIRTHS.

(Still Births are excluded).

Year.	Total.	Birth Rate per 1,000 Population.			
		Urban.	Rural.	Administra- tive County.	England and Wales.
1940	2789	14.4	13.7	14.0	14.6
1941	2873	17.04	15.0	15.8	14.2
1942	2949	17.77	16.62	17.05	15.8
1943	3053	18.84	16.95	17.65	16.5

The birth rate is again the highest since 1924, when it was 17.8. The total number of babies born in 1943 is higher than in any year since 1932, when the figure was 3,070 with a birth rate of 14.7

TABLE II.

ILLEGITIMATE BIRTHS.

(Still Births are excluded).

Year.	Total.	Birth Rate per 1,000 Population.		
		Urban.	Rural.	Administra- tive County.
1940	142	0.6	0.8	0.7
1941	199	1.1	1.1	1.1
1942	194	1.27	1.04	1.1
1943	275	1.70	1.52	1.59

Although the illegitimate birth rate for the County in 1942 remained the same as in 1941, this year shows a sharp rise, the urban rate again being higher than the rural. This is the highest rate recorded since 1918 when the figure for the County was 1.7.

TABLE III.
DEATHS.

Year.	Total.	Death Rate per 1,000 Population.			
		Urban.	Rural.	Administra- tive County.	England and Wales.
1940	2824	15.2	13.4	14.16	14.3
1941	2488	15.4	13.0	13.87	12.9
1942	2434	15.3	13.4	14.07	11.6
1943	2329	14.18	13.05	13.48	12.1

The figures in the above table are again crude rates, and therefore, they do not give a true picture of the position because of the varying age distribution in different areas throughout the country.

TABLE IV.

Five-yearly period.	Number of Births.	Number of Deaths.	Excess of Births over Deaths.
1934-38	14,612	12,942	1,670
1939	2,897	2,649	Deaths exceeded births by 35 12.724
1940	2,789	2,824	
1941	2,873	2,488	
1942	2,949	2,434	
1943	3,053	2,329	
			1,837

In place of the quinquennial table shown in previous reports, I have given the figures for the five yearly period, 1934-38, before the war, and the figures in detail from 1939-43. The figures show a rise of births over deaths for the two quinquennia of 167.

Infant Mortality Rate.

TABLE V.
DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER ONE YEAR.

Year.	Total.	Rate per 1,000 Live Births.			
		Urban.	Rural.	Administra- tive County.	England and Wales.
1940	123	45	47	46	55
1941	132	47	45	46	59
1942	119	41	40	40	49
1943	107	43	30	35	49

It is very satisfactory to record the continued fall in the deaths of children under one year during the war period. The figure of 35 per 1,000 live births is the lowest rate recorded, the nearest to this being in 1935 when the rate was 37 per 1,000 live births for the County and 57 for England and Wales.

TABLE VI.
INFANT MORTALITY OVER FIVE-YEARLY PERIODS.

Quinquennium.	Number of Births.	Number of Deaths.	Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births.
1934-1938	14,612	628	43
1939	2,897	114	39
1940	2,789	128	46
1941	2,873	132	46
1942	2,949	119	40
1943	3,053	107	35

II.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Medical Staff (whole-time):

County Medical Officer: B. Wood-White, M.B., D.P.H. (died 22.12.43).

Deputy County Medical Officer: A. G. Atkinson, M.D., D.P.H.

County Bacteriologist: (Acting) P. H. Martin, B.M., D.T.M. & H., F.R.C.P.

Assistant County Medical Officers: H. Pedler, M.R.C.S., D.P.H. W. M. Burns, M.B., D.P.H. C. M. Whiteford, M.B., D.P.H. E. A. Parkinson, M.B., D.P.H. E. Graham, M.B., D.P.H. (joined the services). M. Gibson M.B. (temporary).

Nursing Staff (whole-time):

Supervisor of Midwives: Miss F. MacDonald., Certified Teacher of Midwives.

Assistant Supervisor of Midwives: Miss M. Thompson (resigned August, 1943).

2 Health Visitors.

1 Orthopaedic Nurse (on active service).

County Sanitary Staff (whole-time):

County Sanitary Officer: A. E. Chapman, F.S.I.A.

Assistant County Sanitary Officers: G. H. Hine (on Service).

Ivon W. Fenn. (on Service).

District Medical Officers of Health:

Urban Districts:

Aldeburgh	...	...	C. D. Somers.
Beccles	...	...	L. Gibson.
Bungay	...	...	H. Pedler.
Eye	...	...	H. Pedler.
Felixstowe	...	...	G. J. Conford.
Halesworth	...	...	W. M. Burns.
Leiston	...	...	W. M. Burns.
Lowestoft	...	...	V. R. Walker.
Saxmundham	...	...	D. W. Ryder Richardson.
Southwold	...	...	J. Borham for D. W. Collings.
Stowmarket	...	...	H. Pedler for E. Graham.
Woodbridge	...	...	C. Whiteford.

Rural Districts:

Blyth ...	...	...	W. M. Burns.
Deben	...	...	C. Whiteford.
Gipping	...	...	C. Whiteford for E. Graham.
Hartismere	...	...	H. Pedler.
Lothingland	...	...	L. Gibson.
Samford	...	...	A. G. Atkinson for E. Graham.
Wainford	...	...	H. Pedler.

County Laboratory.

The number of specimens examined at the County Laboratory during the past three years were:—

1941	...	...	...	10,732
1942	...	...	...	13,723
1943	...	...	...	16,010

These figures again show an increase in the amount of work done at the County Laboratory during the year. The chief rise in examinations was amongst nose and throat swabs and Wassermann and Kahn reactions, the latter rising from 4,292 in 1942 to 6,010 this year. It should be remembered that the work of the County Laboratory covers the Public Health work of East Suffolk, part of West Suffolk and Essex, and the County Borough of Ipswich, as well as work for the Services—the examinations for the Services are not included in the above figures. Only a few examinations are done for West Suffolk and Essex.

I give the following report by Dr. P. H. Martin upon some special investigations which have been carried out during the year:—

“The Specialists and Research Workers of the National Institute for Medical Research and of the Emergency Public Health Laboratory Service continued to give most valuable assistance in the investigation of specimens. Without this backing it would have been impossible to provide Medical Officers of Health with much of the information which is now available for exact diagnosis and epidemiological study of infectious disease.

Influenza. In April, serological evidence was obtained pointing to the local presence of Type A Influenza virus.

Cervical Adenitis. Cytological and serological investigation of an outbreak in Samford R.D. in the late summer, failed to identify the infection as Glandular Fever (Infective Mononucleosis). Jaundice (Infectious Hepatitis) was prevalent in the same area.

Intestinal Infections. Bacteriological Food-poisoning. Various members of the Salmonella Group were found repeatedly. In Samford, *S. typhimurium* (*S. aertrycke*) infections were widespread in April and May. A sharp localized outbreak occurred in Ipswich in August. Dr. A. Felix, F.R.S., examined all cultures isolated by bacteriophage technique. This provided epidemiological evidence of great value in tracing the spread of each outbreak. In Samford and Deben suspicion fell on improperly-cooked sausage meat as a vehicle of spread of infection. The investigation of this was followed by interesting, though inconclusive results.

A Military Unit in the area provided the first outbreak known in this country due to *S. san diego*. Similar outbreaks were found later in other parts of the country among Military Units.

Bacillary Dysentery (a) *Sonne Type*. Westleton, Blyth R.D. and St. Audry's Hospital, Deben R.D. both suffered from sharp outbreaks. Isolated cases came to light from other parts of East Suffolk among civilian and

Service personnel. (b) *Flexner Type*. Apart from cases in the Ipswich Mental Hospital, six infections among Service Units were diagnosed.

Brucellosis. Only one case of human Undulant Fever was diagnosed. Routine examination of milk samples again indicated how widespread is *Brucella abortus* infection in local dairy herds.

Venereal Diseases. There was a 40% increase over 1942 figure in the number of serological examinations for Syphilis, which was 8 times as large as the figure for 1939. These figures bear no known relationship to any actual increased prevalence of the disease, but to a large extent the increase is due to sera examinations for ante-natal clinics in the area.

Upper Respiratory Tract Infection. Diphtheria Cultures were isolated from 121 cases and from 7 carriers of this infection. Haemolytic streptococcal infection was numerous; Type 3 caused an outbreak in the Royal Hospital School and Type 1 in the Ipswich Borough General Hospital. *Vincent's Infection* (Fusi-spirochaetosis) was prevalent and widespread."

(Signed) P. H. MARTIN,

A/County Bacteriologist.

III.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

This part of the Report deals with the Administrative County, excluding Lowestoft, which is a Local Supervising Authority for Maternity and Child Welfare.

Summary of Visits Paid by Health Visiting Staff.

	1943.	1942.	1941.
First visits to children under 1 year	2,131	2,006	2,108
Re-visits to infants under 1 year ...	16,902	16,229	15,675
Visits to expectant mothers ...	9,839	9,860	9,955
Visits to children 1-5 years ...	24,925	25,426	26,470
Totals	53,797	53,521	54,208

Nursing in the Home.

There are 64 District Nursing Associations; 71 Nurses are employed by the District Nursing Associations and 6 Emergency Nurses by the East Suffolk County Nursing Association—a total of 77, 49 of these Nurses use a car and 1 an auto-cycle, for work on the districts.

The Nurses undertaking work for the County Council at the end of the year were:—

				Emergency Nurses.
Queen's Nurses	...	...	16	1
Trained Nurses	...	...	10	—
District Nurses	...	...	40	2
Vacancies	...	...	5	3
Total	...	...	71	6

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CENTRES.

Summary for years 1942 and 1943:—				1942.	1943.
Number of openings	...	...	...	729	734
Number of attendances:—					
Ante-natal	...	...	...	1,082	1,159
Post-natal	...	...	...	24	20
Children	...	...	...	18,333	21,100
Average attendance of children a session	...			25.15	29
Number of consultations with Medical Officer:—					
Mothers, Ante-natal	...	...		835	995
Mothers, Post-natal	...	...		19	17
Children	...	...	...	5,741	6,047
Average number of consultations per child each session attended by Medical Officer				10.2	11.1

Twenty-six Infant Welfare Centres were in commission at the end of 1943, 4 new centres being opened during the year at Waldringfield, Framlingham, Stradbroke and Wenhaston. Nine functioned as ante-natal clinics, those at Felixstowe, Stowmarket and Ipswich being specially equipped for that purpose.

Centres functioning at the end of 1943.

Sessions held.

Weekly.	Twice monthly.	Monthly.
Aldeburgh	Bramford (a)	Charsfield
Beccles	Brantham (a)	Farnham (a)
Bungay	Eye	Framlingham
Felixstowe (a)	Kesgrave (a)	Kirton
Halesworth	Kessingland	Nacton (a)
Leiston	Wrentham	Newbourne
Stowmarket (a)		Otley
Woodbridge (a)		Stradbroke
Yoxford		Waldringfield
County Hall, Ipswich (a)		Wenhaston

(a) = Centre also functions as an ante-natal clinic.

Institutional Provision for Maternity Cases.

209 women were confined in institutions under the Council's scheme, compared with 181 in 1942. The rise in numbers reflects the continuing difficulty under war conditions for mothers to have their babies at home, not only because many are in lodgings, but also because housewives are unable to obtain help in the home during the lying-in period.

Unmarried mothers.—The County Council contributed towards 8 cases under their agreement with the Diocesan Moral Welfare Association.

Obstetric Consultant Service.—This service was used once only during the year.

Dental Treatment for Expectant Mothers.—18 cases were given financial assistance for extractions, fillings, scalings, dentures, etc.

Maternal Mortality.

There were 6 deaths—2 from puerperal sepsis and 4 from other causes. The mortality rate for the County was 1.91 for each 1,000 total births, compared with 1.84 for England and Wales. Last year the comparable figures were 2.64 for the County and 2.01 for England and Wales.

Two of the 6 deaths occurred in Lowestoft, which for maternity and child welfare purposes is apart from the County. The rate for Lowestoft this year is 3.54; when the Lowestoft deaths are excluded the County rate is lowered to 1.55.

Maternal Mortality rate per 1,000 live births.

<u>Five-yearly period.</u>	<u>Administrative</u> <u>County.</u>	<u>England and</u> <u>Wales.</u>
1934-38	3.02	3.61
1939	2.61	2.82
1940	3.11	3.34
1941	1.02 - 2.26	2.23 - 2.44
1942	2.64	2.01
1943	1.91	1.84

I give below figures which this year have been given under Maternal Mortality, relating to abortion for England and Wales; these figures have not been taken into account in calculating the maternal mortality rate for the country, because in previous years the rates given have excluded abortion:—

	<i>Rate per 1,000 total</i> <i>(live and still) births.</i>	
Abortion with Sepsis	...	0.34
Abortion without Sepsis	...	0.11

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

3 cases were notified. 3 were treated at home, in all cases the vision was unimpaired.

Puerperal Pyrexia.

In the County (excluding Lowestoft), 17 cases were notified; of these, 5 were treated at home and 12 in hospitals, through arrangements made by the County Council. 1 died.

Midwives.

104 midwives practised in the County during 1943. 2,414 births came to notice through notification by doctors, parents, midwives and Registrars (excluding Lowestoft), but the Registrar-General returns the number of total births as 2,576. 1,028 confinements were attended by midwives as midwives and 1,167 as maternity nurses.

Registration of Nursing Homes.

9 homes were on the register as maternity or nursing homes. 6 institutions were exempted.

Orthopaedic Treatment.

Children under 5 years of age:—

In-patient treatment—Individual children, 7 (5 once, 2 twice.)

Out-patient treatment—Individual children, 48.

Number of attendances	...	...	...	200
Number of X-rays taken	...	...	...	16
Number of surgical appliances supplied	...	...	...	8

Child Life Protection.

The number of children under supervision at the end of the year was 311, compared with 316 in 1942.

IV.

VACCINATION.

	<u>Adminis. County.</u> <u>County.</u>				<u>Excluding</u> <u>Lowestoft.</u>		
	1939.	1940.	1941.	1942.	1940.	1941.	1942.
Total births registered during year	2,707	2,602	2,559	2,585	2,069	2,218	2,250
Successfully vaccinated ...	937	990	1,232	1,358	969	1,215	1,330
Insusceptible of vaccination ...	8	29	15	18	28	15	18
Statutory declaration of conscientious objection ...	1,467	1,245	965	926	878	767	733
Died unvaccinated ...	83	67	85	75	48	64	60
Postponement by medical certificate	10	8	14	13	7	14	13
Removal to other districts and Vaccination Officer apprised ...	41	39	64	41	30	58	41
Removal to places unknown and cases not found ...	71	47	47	37	37	40	37
Percentage of children successfully vaccinated ...	34.6	38.4	48.1	52.5	46.8	54.8	59.1

As has been pointed out in previous reports, the figures for vaccination are a year behind the other statistics given in this report; this is because the returns of the Vaccination Officers cannot be submitted until some time after the expiration of any particular year. The rise in the percentage of children vaccinated successfully continues and that for the County, excluding Lowestoft, is greater than the percentage for the Borough of Lowestoft. I think that in view of the shortage of Public Vaccinators in the County and the difficulty in administering this service, this steady rise is very satisfactory.

V.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supplies.

There is no change to report under this heading.

Sewage Disposal.

There is no change to report under this heading.

Pollution of the River Gipping.

Serious pollution of the River Gipping continues. A variety of trade wastes from factories in Stowmarket run into the river and convert an otherwise pleasant stream into an unsightly and foul smelling river. This unpleasant state of the river continues down to and beyond Needham Market.

A revised system of sewerage that will take trade wastes, with improved and modernised sewage disposal works, should overcome this long-standing nuisance.

Stowmarket U.D. Council decided recently to seek the approval of the Ministry of Health to proceed with a proposed scheme; it is to be hoped that approval will be granted.

Considerable sewage pollution is added to the river in its course through Needham Market.

VI.

HOUSING (RURAL WORKERS) ACTS.

TABLE VII.

Progress of Scheme approved by the Minister of Health under the Housing (Rural Workers) Acts, 1926 and 1942.
Position at 31st December, 1943.

ASSISTANCE BY WAY OF GRANTS BY THE COUNCIL.

Purpose for which assistance required.	Number of dwellings in respect of which applications for grants have been :—			Assistance promised by the Council :—		Assistance given by the Council :—		Number of dwellings :—	
	Made to the Council. (2)	Refused by the Council. (3)	Withdrawn by applicants. (4)	Total Amounts of grants promised. (5)	Number of dwellings concerned. (6)	Total Amounts of grants paid. (7)	Number of dwellings concerned. (8)	On which work has been finished. (9)	On which work has been commenced but not finished. (10)
(i) Conversion of buildings not previously used as dwellings into dwellings	50	6	14	£ s. d. 2,808. 4. 0	29	2,808. 4. 0	29	29	—
(ii) Improvement of existing dwellings	1,247	120	195	72,948. 19. 8	932	72,248. 19. 8	925	925	0
Total at end of year ...	1,297	126	209	75,757. 3. 8	961	75,057. 3. 8	954	954	0

All new work under this Act has ceased on account of the war.

VII.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk.

25 samples of milk were taken and examined for tubercle bacilli in 1943; two of these, or 8 per cent, were found to be positive.

Notifications of positive samples of milk produced in the County were received from Great Yarmouth and Lowestoft.

10 investigations of herds were carried out by the Veterinary Inspectors of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries in an endeavour to discover the cows responsible for infecting the mixed milk of the herds with tubercle bacilli. Five of these were successful in isolating the cows responsible for the original infection and they were dealt with under the Tuberculosis Order, 1938. In three herds a cow had been sent for slaughter between the time of the taking of the bulk sample and the investigation and it was considered probable that in each case this cow was responsible for the infection.

In two herds no clinical symptoms of tuberculosis were found and bulk sampling did not reveal further positive results.

Milk (Special Designations) Order.

Accredited Milk.—The number of licences in force at the end of the year was 243. 19 licences were suspended and 4 suspensions were revoked. 812 samples were collected and examined. 176 were found to be unsatisfactory, a percentage of 21.7 compared with 33.1 in 1942.

Tuberculin Tested.—44 licences were in force at the end of the year. 1 licence was suspended. 91 samples were taken, 17 were found to be unsatisfactory, a percentage of 18.7 compared with 24 in 1942.

The smaller number of samples taken has been due to shortage of staff.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

240 samples of food and drugs were taken and sent for analysis to the Public Analyst. 82 of these were milk samples, including 2 "in course of delivery" samples which were taken for Ipswich County Borough. 19 samples (all milks) were not up to the standard required by the Sale of Milk Regulations, 1939. Of these, 14 showed evidence of the addition of water.

Legal proceedings were taken in 5 cases.

- | | | |
|----|---------------------------------|--|
| 1. | 15 $\frac{3}{4}$ % added water | } Defendant fined £2. |
| | 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ % added water | |
| | 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ % added water | |
| 2. | 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ % added water | } Defendant fined £2 and £3 0s. 6d. costs. |
| | 6% added water. | |
| 3. | 11 $\frac{3}{4}$ % added water. | Defendant fined £7 and £1 3s. 0d. costs. |
| 4. | 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ % added water. | Defendant fined £5 and £1 3s. 0d. costs. |
| 5 | 31% added water | } Defendant fined £20 and £2 17s. 6d. costs. |
| | 10 $\frac{3}{4}$ % added water | |
| | 29 $\frac{1}{4}$ % added water | |

Legal proceedings could not be taken in a sixth case involving three samples owing to a technical error on the part of the Assistant Sanitary Inspector.

Letters of caution were sent in respect of the remainder,

VIII.

SHOPS ACTS, 1912-36.

It has not been possible to make any systematic inspections under these Acts.

IX.

PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Isolation Hospital Accommodation. (*See Report for 1938*).

INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1943.

TABLE VIII.

Infectious Disease:	Number of cases notified.	Number of deaths.	Attack rate per 1,000 Population.	
			Adminis- trative County.	England and Wales.
Smallpox	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	349	—	2.02	3.01
Diphtheria ...	43	3	.24	0.88
Enteric Fever ...	1	—	.005	0.02
Pneumonia ...	217	76	1.25	1.34
Polio-myelitis ...	—	4	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	368	5	2.12	2.54
Measles	3233	7	18.7	9.88
Cerebro-spinal fever	8	1	.046	0.08
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	25	2	—	—

Smallpox.—This condition has been absent from the County since 1929.

Scarlet Fever.—The absence of deaths reflects the continuance of a mild type of this disease.

Diphtheria.—Of the three fatal cases of diphtheria one was a child under 1 year of age (not immunised); the other two occurred in the adult age groups of 15-45 and 45-65.

During the year 2,758 children were immunised (A.P.T.), 1,840 under 5 years of age and 918 of school age. Two cases of diphtheria occurred in children of school age, one of whom had been immunised.

Whooping Cough.—Although the number of cases this year was lower than in 1942—367 against 485, the number of deaths is higher—5 against 2.

Measles.—There was a sharp rise in the number of cases of measles, but the case mortality has fallen from 5.9 per 1,000 to 2.1 per 1,000.

Cerebro-Spinal Fever.—There has been a reduction in case mortality compared with 1942, coincident with the smaller number of cases, i.e., 1 death in 8 cases, compared with 4 deaths in 14 cases in 1942.

X.

TUBERCULOSIS.

TABLE IX.

Cases certified as having died of Tuberculosis.—taken from the return of the Registrar-General.

Year.	Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.	Total.
1939	79	16	95
1940	82	13	95
1941	66	21	87
1942	60	18	78
1943	52	16	68

This table shows a continuation of the fall in the number of deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis and there is still no evidence of the expected rise which is usually associated with a long war period.

Deaths from Tuberculosis.

TABLE X.

The figures in this table are those assigned by the Registrar-General.

Five-yearly Period.	Deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis.	Deaths from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.	Total.
1914-1918	928	273	1,201
1934-1938	452	104	556
1939	79	16	95
1940	82	13	95
1941	66	21	87
1942	60	18	78
1943	52	16	68

I have included in Table X. the figures for the quinquennium 1914-1918, which is the comparable war period with 1939-1943. It will be noted that the fall in deaths from tuberculosis in these two five-yearly periods is very marked.

Death Rates—Tuberculosis.

TABLE XI.

Year.	All Forms.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	Adminis- trative County.	England and Wales.	Adminis- trative County.	England and Wales.	Adminis- trative County.	England and Wales.
1939	.45	.64	.38	.54	.07	.10
1940	.48	.68	.41	.57	.07	.11
1941	.48	.69	.37	.57	.12	.12
1942	.45	.62	.35	.51	.10	.11
1943	.39	.61	.30	.51	.09	.10

Again, there is a fall in the death rate for tuberculosis which is principally due to the lower pulmonary rate—a very satisfactory record.

*Tuberculosis
(All Forms).*

Official County Rate	...	...	...	.39
Rate with immigrants excluded			...	.36
Rate with immigrants and deaths from other causes excluded	...	...	...	.35

Deaths of notified cases of Tuberculosis, 1943.

Notified after death	...	...	...	3
Within one week of notification	...	...	...	4
1 week to 1 year after notification			...	18
1 year to 5 years after notification	...	...	...	19
From 5 years onwards after notification			...	11
				—
Total			...	55
				—

943 examinations were made by the Tuberculosis Officers during 1943, compared with 896 in 1942. 225 cases were on full time and 109 on part-time work; 112 were able to be about and 62 were confined to bed.

362 specimens of sputum for dispensary cases were examined at the request of the Tuberculosis Officers; of these, 98 were positive, compared with 107 in 1942.

261 pulmonary and 84 non-pulmonary cases were removed from the register during the year.

Primary Notifications.—113 pulmonary and 70 non-pulmonary, a total of 183, compared with 163 for 1942. The rise in primary notifications is largely accounted for by the discharge of persons from the Services because of X-Ray findings, etc.

Artificial Pneumothorax Treatment.—10 new cases received this treatment. 1 completed treatment; 2 had advanced disease and treatment ceased. 5 had A.P. induced in other areas and continued treatment here when they came to live in the County, while 6 County patients moved from the area and continued treatment elsewhere. 32 patients were continuing treatment at the end of the year.

Institutional Treatment.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis.—90 patients were admitted to institutions. 73 were discharged; 11 died; 48 remained in the institutions at the end of 1943.

Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.—82 cases were admitted to institutions. 79 were discharged; 2 died; 21 remained in the institutions at the end of 1943.

Number of patients receiving residential treatment:—

		1941.	1942.	1943.
Pulmonary	...	93	110	116
Non-Pulmonary	...	55	64	80
		—	—	—
Total	...	148	174	196
		—	—	—

Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

Although more patients received institutional treatment this year, there is still a shortage of beds, particularly for early cases requiring sanatorium

treatment; this position became more acute in 1943 because the East Anglian Sanatorium was transferred to the British Legion and beds there limited to Service cases only. The opening of two wards at Hartismere Emergency Hospital during the year to take 20 cases, has relieved the problem of the advanced chronic case requiring accommodation in an institution.

TABLE XII.

1.	No. of cases on Dispensary Register, 1st January, 1943 ...	502
2.	No. of cases transferred <i>from</i> other areas and cases returned after discharge under (3) below in previous years	39
3.	No. of cases transferred <i>to</i> other areas, not desiring further assistance under the tuberculosis scheme and cases "lost sight of"	85
4.	Cases written off as "dead" all causes in 1943	49
5.	No. of "T.B. Plus" cases on Dispensary Register on 31st December, 1943	197
6.	No. of X-ray examinations for Dispensary Cases ...	303

Pulmonary Tuberculosis. Memo 266/T.

This Memorandum was issued in conjunction with a Circular from the Ministry of Health, introducing new arrangements for the treatment of pulmonary tuberculosis, particularly in regard to early diagnosis and treatment and the provision of financial support for the dependents of persons undergoing treatment. A scale of maintenance allowances for patients has operated in this County since the 1st August, 1943, and from that date until the end of the year, 25 cases received allowances under this scheme.

XI.

TREATMENT OF VENEREAL DISEASES.

TABLE XIII.

Lowestoft V.D. Clinic.

Area from which Patients came.	No. of New Cases.		Total number of attendances.	
	1942	1943	1942	1943
East Suffolk	316	256	3005	2669
Great Yarmouth	46	38	663	705
Norfolk	9	2	53	12
Total :	371	296	3721	3386

TABLE XIV.
Venereal Diseases. (East Suffolk Patients Only).

Centre.	No. of East Suffolk Persons seen for the first time and found to be suffering from:—			Conditions other than Venereal.	Total.	Total No. of Attendances at Out-patient Clinics.	Aggregate No. of In-patient days.
	Syphilis.	Soft Chancre.	Gonorrhoea.				
Lowestoft	45 (25)	—	12 (2)	199 (160)	256 (187)	2669	—
Ipswich	31	1	62 (1)	100 (15)	194 (16)	2727	—
Other Treatment Centres	—	—	1	—	1	10	—
TOTALS	76 (25)	1	75 (3)	299 (175)	451 (203)	5406	—

N.B.—The figures in brackets relate to members of H.M. Forces and are included in all totals.

Table XIV.—There has been a marked fall in the number of new cases treated at the Lowestoft Clinic, the relative figures for the two years being:—

			1942.	1943.
Syphilis	...	...	141	45
Gonorrhoea	...	...	60	12
			} 201	} 57

The proportion of cases of syphilis to gonorrhoea treated at Lowestoft still remains high, compared with the cases treated at the Ipswich Clinic where the reverse holds. At the Ipswich Clinic the figures for the two years showed a rise in the new cases treated, namely:—

			1942.	1943.
Syphilis	...	...	22	31
Gonorrhoea	...	...	26	62
			} 48	} 93

It is not known whether this rise is due to an actual increase in the disease or whether more persons are seeking treatment through enlightenment from continued propaganda.

XII.

CANCER DEATH RATE.

TABLE XV.

Year.	No. of Deaths.			Death Rate per 1,000 Population.			
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Urban.	Rural.	Adminis- trative County.	England and Wales.
1939	202	215	417	2.03	1.95	1.98	1.62
1940	198	168	366	2.08	1.66	1.83	1.66
1941	175	209	384	2.3	2.05	2.14	1.67
1942	203	195	393	2.6	2.12	2.3	1.69
1943	144	226	370	2.77	1.76	2.14	1.74

As has been pointed out in previous reports the Cancer death rate is misleading, except in the Census years when the number of persons in each age group is known; this is particularly so in war-time in a rural County like East Suffolk.

XIII.

MENTAL DEFICIENCY ACTS, 1913 to 1933

TABLE XVI.

Mental Defectives in East Suffolk:

Number on books:—				1942.	1943.
Males	...	...	...	572	613
Females	...	...	...	703	641
Total	...			1,275	1,254

<i>Dealt with by Joint Committee:</i>			<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
In institutions	...	...	164	162	326
On leave of absence from institutions			4	37	41
Under guardianship		...	7	17	2
Under statutory supervision		...	76	80	156
<i>Dealt with at instance of parent or Suffolk Mental Welfare Association:</i>					
In training homes		...	6	11	17
In Royal Eastern Counties Institution			14	8	22
Under voluntary supervision			314	257	571
<i>Defectives in Public Assistance Institutions:</i>			28	69	97
Total			<u>613</u>	<u>641</u>	<u>1,254</u>

XIV.

BLIND PERSONS ACT, 1938.

Total blind persons: 435. 188 males and 247 females. Of these, 395 are unemployable; 16 are employed and 24 come into other categories. 29 blind persons are mentally defective; 8 physically defective; 31 are deaf.

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EAST SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL.



ANNUAL REPORT
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County Medical Officer

1943

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
COUNTY HALL,
IPSWICH

